

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00731 251123Z

46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

INT-05 HEW-06 FDRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /069 W

----- 033812

R 250935Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0065

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS NIAHAY 0731

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, NG, BE

VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE TO NIGER

BELGIAN DELEGATION HEADED BY FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE VISITED NIGER FEB. 20 - 22. AT CONCLUSION OF NIGER-BELGIUM MIXED COMMISSION MEETING, FONMIN ANNOUNCED BELGIUM WOULD UNDERTAKE FINANCING OF 300 HECTARE IRRIGATION PROJECT COSTING CFA 400 MILLION (\$1.9 MILLION), SEND LAB EQUIPMENT AND FIVE MINING/ GEOLOGY EXPERTS TO START UP NEW GON MINING RESEARCH OFFICE, AND WOULD HELP FINANCE GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS OF THE AIR MOUNTAINS AND A NEW MINING SCHOOL IN AGADEZ. HE ALSO REITERATED CONTINUED BELGIAN SUPPORT FOR BUILDING HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IN DOSSO DEPARTMENT AND SUPPORTING NATIONAL HEALTH TRAINING THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS TO BELGIUM AND TO NIGER'S NATIONAL HEALTH SCHOOL.

COMMENT: VAN ELSLANDE VISIT GAVE GON OPPORTUNITY TO ROLL OUT RED CARPET TO SHOW ITS GRATITUDE FOR BELGIUM'S ECONOMIC AID, BUT MORE PARTICULARLY, ITS TIMELY, EFFECTIVE AND HIGHLY APPRECIATED DROUGHT ASSISTANCE EFFORTS OF THE LAST TWO YEARS.BUCHE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NIAMEY00731
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750066-0128
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750215/aaaaance.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: EAID, OVIP, EFIN, NG, BE, (VAN ELSLANDE, RENAAT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006